

REMARKS

Status of claims

Claims 1-12 are pending, of which claim 1 is independent. Claims 1-6 and 12 have been amended to correct informalities in the claim language and to more clearly define the claimed subject matter. Support for the amendments is found, for example, at FIGS. 2-4 and the corresponding disclosure of the present application. Care has been taken to avoid introducing new matter.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter recited by claims 9-12 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Objection to the Claims

Claim 12 was objected to as being improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only. Applicants respectfully submit that amendment made to claim 12 overcomes this objection.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakamoto (US 5,990,863). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner asserts that a brightness controller 7 and an interfiled difference calculator with a brightness value memory 17 correspond to the claimed gain controller and variation controller, respectively. Applicants disagree.

Applicants respectfully submit that, in Sakamoto, brightness controller 7 controls the brightness based on the difference between fields calculated by the difference calculator (see,

col. 2, lines 29-31 of Sakamoto). In other words, Sakamoto controls the brightness dynamically in response to the variation of the brightness between the fields.

In contrast, in the present subject matter, the gain control value is *selected from the predetermined values* (e.g., 1.0 or 0.9) and is given to the video block (see, FIGS. 2-4 of the present disclosure). As such, it is clear that, at a minimum, Sakamoto fails to disclose the use of the predetermined values from which the gain control value is selected.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Sakamoto does not anticipate the subject matter of amended claim 1 or any claim dependent thereon. Thus, it is requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). It is further noted that claims 9-12 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakamoto. The Examiner asserts that selection of the field rate and the number of fields is a matter of design choice. Applicants traverse.

Applicants incorporate herein the arguments previously advanced in traversal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) predicated upon Sakamoto. At a minimum, dependent claims 3-6 are free from the applied art in view of their dependency from independent claim 1. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 3-6 and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

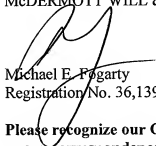
Conclusion

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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